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Ex-Manager Who Wore Fake Bomb in Bank Heist Charged With Insurance Fraud

A woman sentenced last week for her role in a 2012 East Los Angeles bank robbery was charged today with insurance fraud, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Aurora Barrera (dob 8/27/80) was charged in case BA428063 with two counts of insurance fraud. She is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Richard Gallegly of the Healthcare Fraud Division said Barrera claimed she had post-traumatic stress disorder following a September 2012 robbery at a Bank of America branch where she worked. Barrera filed a workers' compensation claim shortly thereafter and collected about \$35,000 in disability benefits, the prosecutor said.

In March, a federal jury found Barrera and her ex-boyfriend, Reyes "Ray" Vega, guilty of conspiracy and bank robbery. Investigators determined Barrera, working with Vega, strapped a fake bomb to herself to make it appear she was a hostage while the bank was being robbed.

Barrera was sentenced last week to nine years in federal prison.

If convicted as charged, Barrera faces up to five years in state prison.

The case was investigated by the California Department of Insurance.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.